(b) if so, the details and cost thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to have approval and consultation of the local MPs in the said Works ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) there is no comprehensive proposal from these two States. State Governments send proposals from time to time under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). So far proposals to the tune of Rs. 659.97 crore and Rs. 963.05 crore pertaining to the State of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively have been cleared in the years 2000-01 and 2001-02.

(c) The States have been advised to give full consideration to the proposals made by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament while finalising the proposals under the PMGSY.

Emulating West Bengal's successful land reforms scheme

144. SHRI JIBON ROY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news item "Land reforms in Bengal and Asian Success Story" published in the 'Times of India' dated 27th May, 2002; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to follow similar policy all over the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Thrust of the news item is to the security of rights of the poor on land by providing them ownership rights. The Government of India's policy since Independence have also been in the same direction i.e., "land to the tiller". However, land and its management is under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments as provided in Entry 18 List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The Central Government performs an advisory and coordinating function in this regard.

Since Independence, laws have been enacted by various States with the objective of abolishing big landlords, distribution of land through imposition

of ceiling, protection of tenants/share croppers and consolidation of land holdings and restoration of alienated tribal lands etc. As a result of implementation of various lands laws, following achievements have been made since inception :

- Intermediaries abolished on 15 million acres of land and ownership rights granted to 20 million tillers.
- An area of 5.38 million acres of ceiling surplus land distributed to 5.58 million rural poor, 50% of which constitute SC/ST beneficiaries.
- An area of 14.74 million acres of Government Wastelands and 2.17 million acres of Bhoodan land also distributed among the eligible rural poor.
- 12.42 million tenants have their rights protected over an area of 15.63 million acres of land.
- 0.43 million acres of alienated land has been restored to STs.

World Bank Assistance for Rural Roads Project

145. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister's programme for rural roads announced in December, 2000 is a difficult proposition due to shortage of fund;

(b) if so, whether Government during discussion with World Bank officials in Washington in the month of May, 2002 were able to convince World Bank for funding;

(c) whether the World Bank Mission visited India in the month of June, 2002; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the details of progress of this project ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The total investment required for attaining the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is currently estimated at Rs. 60,000 crore. A sum of Rs. 7500 crore have so far been allocated for the